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RURAL DISTRICT

HEREFORDSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1945



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Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
Acting Medical Officer of Health (Deputy County Medical Officer)	...		I. F. MACKENZIE, M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (Private Tel., Weobley 59)
Clerk	B. J. SCANDRETT (On War Service from 1939)
Temporary Clerk	MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT
Sanitary Inspector	G. E. BULL, M.S.I.A., C.R. San. I. (Tel., Kingsland 11).

Public Health Office : 4, Church Street, Leominster (Tel., Leom. 95).

To the Chairman and Members of the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS,

I present herewith the Annual report for the year, 1945.

At time of writing, your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. H. F. GREEN, has happily returned from service with H.M. Forces and resumed duty.

The arrangements which were made on the eve of his departure in 1942 were designed to provide a means for emergency action in the event of outbreaks of disease ; and also to enable the really essential day to day duties of your health department to be carried on by medical officers experienced in public health, without reducing further the then serious shortage of medical manpower. Events have demonstrated that this scheme, which was conceived under difficult circumstances, was sound ; and though more responsibility fell on your Sanitary Inspector, he, being conscious that he had the support and backing of the considerable resources of the County Council Public Health Department and of the Medical Research Council's Laboratory service, shouldered it the more happily. Gratitude is due to him for his creditable response to the additional calls made on him during these last four years.

I. F. MACKENZIE,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1946.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres)	94,101
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to the Rate Books ...	3,051
Rateable Value	£47,651
Sum represented by a Penny rate	£193

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR :

LIVE BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	16.9
STILL-BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 Live and Still births)	5.9
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	15.0
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births)	41.9
MATERNAL MORTALITY : There was one death from maternal causes in 1945.	

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1945 :

Live Birth Rate	16.1
Death Rate	11.4
Infantile Mortality Rate	46.0

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is at present under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS.

There are none provided by the Authority. Under County Council Schemes there is one clinic operated within the Leominster Borough at which facilities are available for residents in the Rural District. It is the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre which is conducted each Friday at 2 p.m. in the Annexe, Leominster District Hospital.

The nearest Venereal Diseases Clinic is at the County Hospital, Hereford.

An Orthopaedic After-Care Clinic, which is organised on a voluntary basis, is held in the Hospital Annexe.

I am indebted to Mr. G. E. Bull, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following Statement (Sections C to E) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations. The explanatory comments are also his.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The situation during the year was very much as in previous years. Owing to a wet summer no great shortage was experienced.

Water : Sampling. 38 samples of water were taken and sent to the laboratory, with the following results: 15 satisfactory and 23 unsatisfactory. The major part of the district is served by wells, only a few parishes being favoured with a piped supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Nothing of importance occurred during the year. With the exception of the parishes served by sewers the disposal of sewage is effected through septic tanks or by burial in earth.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No pollution was reported upon during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS.

Refuse collection and disposal by tipping is carried out by the Authority in the parish of Leintwardine. There is also a tip at Kingsland, where the people can take their own refuse; also at Wignmore. In the remainder of the district individual householders make their own arrangements.

DISINFECTION ON ACCOUNT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Thirty-six inspections and re-inspections were made in connection with infectious disease and disinfection was carried out at 22 houses.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections have been made under various Acts and Orders, including the Factories Acts, and under enactments, governing meat and foods.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

INSPECTIONS UNDER	No. of Inspections	Informal Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices complied with
Housing and Public Health Acts	1394	78	1	52
Factories	44	1	—	1
Milk and Dairies and Cowsheds	257	8	—	8
Bakehouses	12	2	1	3
Food Premises	184	1	—	1
Schools	6	1	—	1
Water Supplies	38	12	—	10
Infectious Diseases	36	—	—	—
Knackers Yard	16	1	—	1
Hop-Picker's Quarters	12	1	—	1
Miscellaneous visits	4	—	—	—
	2003	105	2	78

NOTICES ISSUED.

Informal	105
Statutory	2

DEFECTS REMEDIED.

The following list relates to major defects only, which were remedied or in connection with which repairs were carried out.

Roofs	17	Pantries provided	1
Dampness	5	Stairs repaired	5
Floors... ..	25	Windows repaired	22
Drains	32	Baths fitted	2
Wells	10	Cesspools constructed	8
New sinks fitted	11	Conversion of privies	10
Spouting repaired	7	Wash coppers repaired	7
Plastered	32	Chimneys repaired... ..	15
Dangerous walls	6	W.C. provided	5

FACTORIES.

44 Inspections have been made at the two Factories with mechanical power and at those without mechanical power in the district. The factories without mechanical power are small, generally only two or three persons being employed. One informal notice was served for minor defects. On the whole the regulations are carried out satisfactorily.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no registered camping sites in the district. Some camps were used by organised parties to help with the harvest. They were inspected and no nuisance occurred. Where camping does occur it is only for a short period.

BED BUGS.

There were no cases of bed bug infection reported during the year.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	1394
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1862
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation	78

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

VAN DWELLINGS.

There are several van dwellings in the district. They are located in Abbey Lane, Leintwardine, and are of the permanent type having their own water supply and drainage. They are mostly overcrowded on present standards and require dealing with as soon as possible.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Regular inspections were made at the various food shops in the district. One notice was served for linewashing and this was complied with.

FOOD CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Tinned Meat	51	lbs.	Apples	24	cwt.
„ Vegetables	185	„	Pork Pies	26	lbs.
„ Milk	28	„	Bacon	136	„
„ Fruit	72	„	Cheese	3½	„
„ Fish	67	„	Fish	224	„
„ Jam	24	„	Tea	6	„
„ Soup	14	„	Margarine	82	„
Pickles	7	„	Butter	63	„

Central slaughtering is carried out at the Borough of Leominster Slaughter House. For this reason no meat was condemned in this district.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE DURING THE YEAR.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Age of Patient.</i>													<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Total</i>
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	Over 40		
Measles	3	8	11	12	12	9	12	17	10	4	5	3	2	1	109
Whooping Cough	1	6	1	4	4	4	2	8	4	1	1	—	—	—	36
Pneumonia	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	—	11
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	8
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The state of immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1945 is indicated in the table below :—

<i>Number</i>	<i>Under 5 years of age.</i>	<i>Between 5 and 15 years of age.</i>
	<i>Percentage of group</i>	
269	30.68%	1089
		68.06%

The unsatisfactory response to the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme which was noted in the report for 1944 continued during 1945. It became clear, however, from enquiries which were made to ascertain the reason for parental indifference, that mothers living in remote cottages experienced difficulty in bringing young children to the clinics even when these were held at the nearest school. The introduction of general practitioners to the Council's scheme may improve the position inasmuch as they can, where necessary, immunise in the home.

Proposals to this end will be placed before the council early in 1946.

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1945 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 42 males and 22 females who normally reside within the district.

During the year 20 new cases were notified, 13 on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 7 because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period, 9 deaths of persons suffering from Tuberculosis occurred.

CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Pulmonary.</i>			<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>			<i>Total.</i>
1939	23	...	15	...	38
1940	22	...	18	...	40
1941	24	...	22	...	46
1942	27	...	23	...	50
1943	39	...	23	...	62
1944	41	...	22	...	63
1945	39	...	25	...	64

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages).

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Males.</i>			<i>Females.</i>			<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis	5	...	2	...	7
Cancer (all forms)	8	...	13	...	21
Heart and Blood Vessels	30	...	37	...	67
Bronchitis and Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	14	...	5	...	19
Diseases of Digestive System	—	...	6	...	6
Nephritis	5	...	4	...	9
Congenital conditions (infants)	2	...	1	...	3
Violence	1	...	1	...	2